

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) ~~Monoclonal~~A monoclonal antibody reacting with a surface antigen present on fetal red blood cells including their nucleated precursor cells, but not with surface antigens on adult erythroid cells.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Antibody~~The antibody according to claim 1, characterized in that it reacts with most or all fetal erythroid cells, which express the CD71 antigen but are negative for CD45 antigen expression.
3. (Currently amended) ~~Antibody~~The antibody according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that it reacts with fetal erythroid cells but not with the CD71 antigen.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Hybridoma~~A hybridoma cell producing ~~monoclonal antibodies according to one of the preceding claims~~a monoclonal antibody reacting with a surface antigen present on fetal red blood cells including their nucleated precursor cells, but not with surface antigens on adult erythroid cells.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Hybridoma~~A hybridoma cell as deposited under accession number DSM ACC 2666 on July 13, 2004 at the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH in Braunschweig, Germany.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) ~~Antibody~~An antibody expressed by the hybridoma cell according to ~~one of claims 4 to 6~~claim 5.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~Surface~~A surface antigen on fetal red blood cells recognized by a monoclonal antibody as characterized in ~~one of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 8~~claim 5.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Antibody~~An antibody characterized in that it recognizes or binds specifically to a surface antigen ~~according to claim 9~~on fetal red blood cells.
11. (Currently amended) Use of a monoclonal antibody according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3, 7, 8, or 10~~claim 1 for the detection and identification of fetal cells in a sample.
12. (Currently amended) Use according to ~~the preceding~~claim 11 for the detection and identification of fetal cells in a sample of maternal blood.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for detection or identification of fetal cells in a sample, characterized by labeling said fetal cells by an antibody according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3, 7, 8 or 10~~claim 1.
14. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~the preceding~~claim 13, characterized in that the sample is maternal blood or a sample of maternal blood.
15. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~The method according to ~~claims 13 or 14 for the detection of chromosomal and/or genetic aberrations, defects and/or variants in the fetal cells detected and identified by a method according to claim 13 to 14~~claim 13, characterized in that where said fetal cells are subsequent to the detection and identification further analyzed for a chromosomal and/or genetic aberration, defects and/or variant.
16. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~The method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 15~~claim 13, characterized in that further comprising separating cells binding the monoclonal antibody ~~are separated~~by flow cytometry, solid phase separation, immunomagnetic bead separation, panning on plastic surfaces, or the like.